

HOUSE OF LORDS

Date: 18 October 2013

Lord Berkeley OBE asked Her Majesty's Government:

To ask her Majesty's Government when, in accordance with paragraph 2.5 of the National Policy Statement for Waste Water, they last reviewed the evidence of need for the Thames Tideway Tunnel and alternatives; and whether that review was based on independent reports published after 2006-07. [HL2367] [HL2367]

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lords, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord de Mauley):

The Waste Water National Policy Statement approved by Parliament in 2012 reviewed alternatives and established the need for a Tunnel. In 2012, Defra also published the Thames Tunnel Evidence Assessment to ensure that due consideration had been given to the full range of evidence available on all the proposed options to address sewage in the Thames, and to provide an assessment of the nature of that evidence. It included, in an Annex, a list of the supporting studies and reports.

In 2013 the Environment Agency conducted an assessment of the evidence on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the Thames Tideway environmental standards. The assessment, which will be published shortly, concludes that SuDS alone would not be enough to combat the sewage pollution issues facing the Thames and meet the environmental standards for the River Thames established by the Thames Tideway Strategic Study in 2006.

Rupert de Mauley